



November 22, 2021

To Texans interested in improving the availability of patient-centered and family-focused palliative care services for families with a member facing a serious illness:

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is accepting applications for membership on the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council. The council assesses the availability of palliative care in Texas for patients and families facing serious illness. It works to make sure the public has relevant, comprehensive and accurate information about palliative care.

The HHS executive commissioner will appoint members to the council to serve a term expiring Dec. 31, 2025, unless otherwise noted. Currently, HHSC is seeking representatives to be selected from the following categories:

- Physician board-certified in hospice and palliative care
- Physician board-certified in pain management
- Physician with another board certification, such as family medicine or oncology
- Spiritual care professional
- Advance practice registered nurse certified in hospice and palliative care
- Pharmacist (Term expires Dec. 31, 2023)
- Advocate for patients and patients' family caregivers who is independent of any hospital or other health care facility (may be a representative of an established patient advocacy organization)

A council member must regularly participate in council meetings and may also have to participate in subcommittee meetings, projects and presentations. Council meetings will be held in Austin about once every three months or at the call of the presiding officer. *To the extent permitted by the current state budget, a council member may be repaid for their travel expenses to and from meetings if money is available and in accordance with the HHSC Travel Policy. A council member is not paid to attend council meetings.*

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If you would like to apply to serve on the council, please complete and return the attached application by **Dec. 31**. It is preferred that you submit your application electronically, but you may submit the application by email, mail or fax. Here are the addresses:

Email:

HHS_Appointments@hhs.texas.gov

Attn: PCIAC

Mail:

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

P.O. Box 13247, Mail Code 0223

Austin, TX 78711

Attn: Susanna Sparkman

Fax:

512-206-3984

Attn: PCIAC

HHSC will notify applicants who has been selected to serve as a member of the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council.

In selecting members to serve on the council, HHSC considers the applicants' qualifications, background and interest in serving on the council. HHSC tries to choose council members who represent the diversity of all Texans. For that reason, HHSC considers applicants' ethnicity, gender and geographic location.

For more information about the council, [visit the council website](#) or contact Jimmy Blanton at jimmy.blanton@hhs.texas.gov.

For more information about applying to be on the council, or for Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, email Susanna Sparkman at HHS_Appointments@hhs.texas.gov or call 512-438-2897.